



Tapu'itea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Tuesday
April 25,
2006

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. I, No. 6

FLAG DAY 2006

Governor Togiola Tulafono declared Monday, April 17th and Tuesday the 18th to be observed as official holidays in American Samoa to celebrate the 106th year of the raising of the American Flag on our soil. This year's Flag Day is dedicated to and honor the American Samoa soldiers – Toa O Samoa, who have recently returned from Iraq, and to all children of Samoa who have been and are still being deployed in war zones. Among the many dignitaries present to help American Samoa celebrate its special day, and pay tribute to American Samoa's Toa O Samoa soldiers were Head of State of Samoa – His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II, Honorable First Lady of the Republic of Palau – Mrs. Debbie Remengensau; Her Highness Princess Fanetupouvava'u Tuita of the Kingdom of Tonga, Kolouei O'Brien, Ulu o Tokelau and Mrs. Ane O'Brien, and OIA director Nikolao Pula of the Department of the Interior.

Governor Togiola, in his Flag Day remarks praised and thanked the soldiers of the local Army Reserve Units for their sacrifices, and memorialized their comrades who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their country, and to further reaffirm and continue our prayers for those who continue to be deployed into harm's way. "My fellow Americans and American Samoans alike, I ask you this morning to reflect deeply for a moment on the essence of the sacrifice by our sons and daughters. From time to time our soldiers are expected, and most often are willing to put their lives on the line and to enter theatres of war to protect and preserve such high ideals and expectations of freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, our way of life. And their commitment to protect those ideals is explained in one word, **PATRIOTISM**, its Samoan equivalent is **"LOTO NU'U"**. Patriotism is defined as devotion – love for one's country. A patriot is a person who loves his country and is willing to guard it zealously. Patriotism and loto nu'u only seem fashionable when our country is at war, like in Iraq today. Patriotism and loto nu'u should be fashionable everyday. True patriotism is the love for one's country and the willingness to defend it. Such love should be our way of life each and everyday," remarked Governor Togiola.

Three dance groups from the Independent State of Samoa (Siumu and Leauva'a villages and Don Bosco, an all boys Catholic school, who also participated in the annual fautasi race) and three local dance groups from American Samoa (Alataua, Aua and the District of Manu'a), the U. S. Marine Corp and Samoa's Police bands provided traditional entertainment for the two day event.

The Fautasi (long boat) race, which normally is the main event of these celebrations, made history this year. The only entry from the Independent State of Samoa, the "Segavao", manned by the Don Bosco students, introduced the first female skipper ever to participate in this annual event. The skipper and her young crew not only overcame some obstacles that could have disadvantaged them, such as using scoop oars for the first time, but won the race quite convincingly, silencing all her male critics, and took the championship trophy back to Western Samoa with them. They have been invited back for next year's race to defend the title and have graciously accepted.



HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On April 13, 1973, the "Massacre Bay" Historic Site at A'asu, American Samoa, where 11 of French explorer Jean-François de La Pérouse's crew were killed on December 11, 1787, was entered on the *National Register of Historic Places*.

On April 14, 1936, Captain Waldo Evans, American Samoa's 13th naval governor (November 11, 1920-March 1, 1922), died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Des Moines, Iowa.

On April 14, 1946, American Samoa's 25th naval governor, Captain Otto Carl Dowling (April 17, 1934-January 15, 1936), died of a coronary occlusion in Fairfield, Connecticut.

On April 15, 1914, American Samoa's ninth naval governor, Commander Clark Daniel Stearns, established a system of advisory boards and committees "to work closer with the Samoan people for mutual cooperation in the administration of the government." These committees, with Samoan members, were: "Committee A: Executive Committee, consisting of District Governors; Committee B: Committee of the Samoan Hospital, with three members from each district, and Committee C: Auditing Committee, to give fullest publicity to the statement of government accounts."

On April 15, 1942, mine laying operations in the approaches to Pago Pago Harbor ceased, after USS *Ontario*, USS *Kingfisher*, USS *Swan* and USS *Turkey* laid a total of 400 mines in six fields, which were in the following locations: "Field 'A': South of Cape Fagauso [Fogausa]; Field 'B': In vicinity of Taema Bank; Field 'C': West of Leone Point; Field 'D': South of Cape Taputapu; Field 'E': West of Southworth Point; Field 'F': Off Ofono [Afono] Bay."

On April 16, 1915, a temporary branch dispensary was started in Ta'u, Manu'a, in a building owned by the Manu'a Cooperative Company.

On April 16, 1997, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt dedicated the National Park of American Samoa (NPAS), in ceremonies held at Vatia. The ceremonies were attended by Governor Tauese P.F. Sunia, Lieutenant Governor Togiola T.A. Tulafono and other cabinet members, and by Western Samoa's Head of State, His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II. The National Park Service was represented by Western Regional Director Stanley Albright, Pacific Ocean Area Director Bryan Harry and NPAS Superintendent Christopher Stein.

On April 17, 1900, the *Deed of Cession*, drafted by Secretary of Native Affairs Edwin W. Gurr, was signed by the following chiefs of Tutuila, American Samoa: "Mauga of Pagopago; Leiato of Fagaitua; Faumuina of Aunuu; Pere [sic] of Lauili; Masani of Vatia; Tupuola of Fagasa; Soliai of Nuuli; Mauga (2) of Pagopago: THE SUA AND THE VAIFANUA [Eastern District]; FOFO AND AITULAGI [Western District]; Tuilele of Leone; Faiivae of Leone; Letuli of Ilili; Fuimaono of Vailoa; Satele of Vailoa; Leoso of Leone; Olo of Leone; Namoa of Malaeloa [sic]; Malota of Malaeloa; Tunaitai [sic] of Pavaiai; Lulemana [sic] of Asu [sic], and Amituanai of Ituuu."

On April 17, 1960, on the 60th anniversary of Flag Day, American Samoa's new flag was hoisted for the first time. For many years, American Samoa did not have an official flag. "Then, in the 1950s, the Office of the Governor solicited ideas for a flag from the local citizens. These were screened by the traditional leaders in Executive Council and a final design was worked out by the Institute of Heraldry of the U.S. Army."

On April 17, 1973, the Official Seal of American Samoa, with the motto "*Samoa Muamua le Atua*" ("Samoa, Let God be First") was dedicated on the 73rd anniversary of Flag Day. (Please see the entries for March 5, 1973 and March 26, 1973).

On April 17, 1980, during Flag Day celebrations in American Samoa, a U.S. Navy Lockheed P-3 *Orion* patrol plane, carrying six skydivers from the U.S. Army's Hawaii-based Tropic Lightning Parachute Club, had its vertical stabilizer shorn off by the Solo Ridge--Mount Alava aerial tramway cable, which stretches across Pago Pago Harbor. The plane crashed, demolishing a wing of the Rainmaker Hotel and killing seven people (all six crew members and one civilian). All six skydivers "were reported in good condition."

On April 17, 1987, Samoa Air, under the direction of James and Constance Porter of Anchorage, Alaska, began flying to Apia, Western Samoa from its base in American Samoa.

Governor Togiola welcomes His Highness Malietoa and Flag Day guests

Governor Togiola Tulafono, on Saturday, April 15th, officially welcomed Head of State of Samoa – His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II to the Territory for the 2006 Flag Day celebration.

In his welcome remarks on Saturday afternoon at Tafuna Airport, Governor Togiola said His Highness' annual participation in American Samoa's commemoration of the raising of the U.S. flag on Tutuila can be likened to a fond display of Samoan fatherly support for his children.

"It is a proud feeling and an honor for us Samoans as sons and daughters to have you join us in celebration as a people," said Governor Togiola. "As the longest serving Head of State in the Pacific region, you are a true statesman and a warrior of democracy and freedom. And your presence in this year's festivities makes it even more of a special celebration for American Samoa as we honor our soldiers – Toa o Samoa, who have fought for the freedom that we all enjoy today."

Governor Togiola said the two Samoas are only different in governments, but share the same product of a proud homeland, culture and traditions.

"We extend our sincere gratitude to His Highness for his presence. He is truly an inspiration to all Samoans who love life and liberty. American Samoa values the special bond we have with His Highness and the cooperation and friendship of the Independent State of Samoa. It is indeed our prayer that God continues to grant you happiness and long life and may His loving protection be a blessing to you always," Governor Togiola told His Highness Malietoa.

His Highness Malietoa's entourage from Samoa included the Honorable Ulu Vaomalo Ulu Kini, Minister of Justice and Courts, and the Honorable Papali'i Lorenese Neru, Commissioner of Police.

Governor Togiola's invited guests to Flag Day 2006 also included the Honorable First Lady of the Republic of Palau – Mrs. Debbie Remengensau; Her Highness Princess Fanetupouvava'u Tuita of the Kingdom of Tonga, granddaughter of their majesties King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV and Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho; the Honorable Kolouei O'Brien, Ulu o Tokelau and Mrs. Ane O'Brien; the Honorable John Adank, New Zealand Consul-General to American Samoa, who also serves as New Zealand High Commissioner in Samoa; the Honorable U.S. Coast Guard Captain Manson Brown, Captain of the Port – Honolulu Sector, and Mrs. Hermenia Brown; Gunnery Sergeant Christopher Carpenter, Drum Major, US Marine Forces Pacific Band, Honolulu Hawaii the Honorable Nikolao Iuli Pula, Jr., Director of the Office of Insular Affairs, Department of Interior.

NOTICE

The Telecommunications Regulatory Commissioner (TRC) advises that an application for designation as an "Eligible Telecommunications Carrier" has been filed with the TRC by AST Telecom, LLC d/b/a Blue Sky and is under review.

The application states that Blue Sky (1) offers, or will offer, all of the services supported by the federal high-cost universal service program, either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services and (2) it advertises, or will advertise, the availability of such services and the charges using media of general circulation.

The application may be reviewed in its entirety at the Office of the Governor, 3rd Floor, Executive Office Building, Utulei, American Samoa, during normal working hours. Written comments may be submitted to the Office of the Governor through May 12, 2006.

TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO
Telecommunications Regulatory Commissioner

First Lady Mrs. Mary Ann Tulafono opens Environment Week 2006

American Samoa First Lady Mary Ann Tulafono had the honor of delivering the keynote speech to officially open Environment Week 2006 on Monday, April 10, 2006 at the Convention Center in Utulei.

The following is the official text of the First Lady's address on the event's theme -- *"Protecting Our Environment for Better Health."*

"As Chairperson for the "Beautify Your Environment" committee, I welcome every opportunity to further the cause and passion of this committee, to continue to spread the message and goal of the committee that every member of our community, young and old alike, be involved and totally committed to protecting our environment for better health.

I wish to commend Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiafa'e and his staff for this year's theme for Environment Week 2006: "Protecting Our Environment for Better Health." I cannot stress enough its importance for all of us. Thank you for your continued efforts in ensuring that the public is well informed on the environmental issues that are crucial to our daily well being.

In many countries around the world where environment degradation is prominent, human suffering exists on a daily basis and the daily quest for survival is never-ending. We have all seen images of starving mothers struggling to find some kind of nourishment for their equally starving babies. And then you look beyond this image and see a dry barren landscape that seems endless. In this same environment, women and children scrape and forage for food and water, basic sustenance for life.

Then I look at these islands, at the lush green vegetation, the beautiful blue Pacific Ocean and white sandy beaches. These islands, where food from the land and fresh fish from the seas are plentiful, and all too often, free for the asking. What beauty and richness we have inherited from our ancestors. Whether we leave a legacy of continued abundance, in terms of clean air, land and water, or will we leave for our children a legacy strewn with litter where unsafe air and water is commonplace, it is our choice. We must make the choice today to act now to ensure that our children's children inherit a legacy we would be proud of.

Being Chairperson of the Beautify Your Environment Committee, I have witnessed various amounts of trash being discarded carelessly across our islands, alongside our roads, beaches and streams. Several clean-ups and scrap metal pick-ups have been organized throughout the years, yet the problem remains. We are all responsible for the maintenance of these islands, from the highland rainforests, through the wetlands and coastal regions, to the coral reefs and marine world. We are stewards of the environment. It is a gift that was given to us, and the heritage that we must later pass on to the generations that will follow. Let us all do our part to make sure that as we pass it on to the next generation, that it is better, cleaner and healthier.

Allow me to give an example of why it is important to protect one such resource – our waterways. By washing pig waste into streams, it is possible to spread the disease-causing bacteria leptospira, which causes Leptospirosis. Leptospira bacteria live in pigs, dogs and rats, and when released from the animal body through urine, it contaminates water and soil. Once in the environment, it is possible for leptospira bacteria to enter the human body. Today, I want to highlight the essential role that you, as family and community members, play in preventing leptospirosis.

Agencies and government departments can develop programs and establish new policies. However, in order for these systems to be successful, we, members of the community need help. A successful leptospirosis prevention program requires a focus on each carrier of the disease, pigs, dogs and rats. Let me offer an example. Just a few months ago, the American Samoa Humane Society organized a veterinary care clinic. The event was very successful because you as community members brought your pets for spaying, neutering, animal care, shots, etcetra.

I wish to commend and say thank you the American Samoa Humane Society, the Governor's Task Force headed by Mrs. Cheryl Morales-Polataivao, and our community on the efforts to control the animal population on island. This huge, successful program needs to be followed by an equally successful and continuing effort by us as a community. For as long as we have pets and animals around us these problems are likely to continue. With more stray dogs roaming the island, you can see how dogs could easily spread the disease by urinating in places where we, and our children are most likely going to come in contact with it. I encourage everyone to continue your efforts in caring for your pets and to make use of veterinary services on island.

Another way to prevent the spread of leptospirosis is to work with piggery owners on reducing the chance of pig urine going into streams. This is of major importance since 70% of the participants in the Center for Disease Control (CDC) study were found to be carrying the pig-type of leptospira bacteria and contact with stream water was identified as putting people at risk for infection.

I thank the American Samoa EPA and Department of Health for their efforts to date. But you know as well as I do there is more work to do to protect our territory. We can and should work together, community and agencies, in protecting our precious water resources and the health of our people. I encourage piggery owners to have a compliant piggery (land use permit). The permit system was created as a way to protect the environment of American Samoa by requiring that an application be submitted to the Department of Commerce for all land use activities, including piggeries. If piggeries were built 50 feet away from streams and 50 feet away from buildings, it would greatly reduce the chance that our waterways become polluted. We need to take proper care of these animals. Pigs are important to our traditions and lifestyle. Let us each do our part to keep this tradition a safe and healthy practice.

To address the third known vector (carrier) of leptospirosis in American Samoa, rats, we need to continue to promote a clean environment in and around our homes and villages. Proper management and disposal of litter can help control these pests. The health of the environment impacts the health of humans. We cannot separate the two.

May I take this opportunity also, to thank everyone for accepting the call and the challenge to beautify and clean the environment in our villages. I urge the village councils, their pulenu'u, and all the residents of this beautiful country of ours to keep up this effort in order to protect our environment for better health.

Let's start Environment Week 2006 with a new commitment to a healthier environment and a healthier community."

Share important activities

with our ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as

or contact Harry Stevens or Vince Iuli

GET A FREE ASG EMAIL ADDRESS

on: amsamoa.gov.as

Email your name, department, current email address and the new email address you want to tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

with: Governor Togiola
Saturdays @ 7a.m.

on: Showers of Blessings-
FM 104.7

American Samoa Business Opportunities Mission

(Pago Pago, American Samoa, April 12, 2006) The Department of the Interior, in conjunction with the American Samoa Government and the AS private sector, will host an Island Business Opportunities Mission to American Samoa from May 8-11, 2006. The Mission is designed to follow up on the Secretary's 2004 Conference on Business Opportunities in the Islands, hosted by the Department of the Interior in Los Angeles in September 2004, which was designed to encourage investment in America's territories and the Freely Associated States. Mission participants will learn about win-win business opportunities in the islands, and develop and strengthen links with potential island partners in several industry sectors.

This is a business development mission, intended to stimulate private-sector-led economic development in the insular areas in a variety of sectors. The Mission is seeking local business people willing to partner with US investors.

Mission participants will receive high-level briefings from both the US Department of Interior and the government of American Samoa. These briefings will focus on the economic environment and describe the new and existing economic development priorities. In addition, Mission participants will meet with leaders of local business organizations, to discuss opportunities that exist or could be developed in the islands. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, participants will be introduced to potential business partners through Mission events and a series of pre-screened one-on-one meetings.

A local Selection Committee was formed to analyze priority economic development areas as identified in various economic reports generated by the ASG Department of Commerce. Representatives from several local private business sector organizations were nominated to participate in the analytic process and final selection of the mission participants. A list of the U.S. businesses that have been selected to participate in the Mission is available at the DOI Field Office located in the Pago Plaza, Room 221.

All interested parties with equity in the form of capital or real estate are invited to contact Lydia at 633-2800, or Lelei or Taui at 633-5155, with any questions regarding the Mission. Interested participants are required to submit a one-page profile containing relevant company and personal background, as well as important contact information, to the DOI Field Office, or to doioia@bluesky.net, by April 26th, 2006.

“Water Contamination and Gastrointestinal Illnesses in Manu’a in February 2006”

Author: CDR Steve Anderson, P.E., USPHS

In regards to recent newspaper articles, the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency would like to issue the following statement:

On March 10th, 2006, American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) confirmed that four water supply sites in Olosega were positive for total coliform. One of these samples was also positive for E Coli. The sites included the Asaga Inn, Olosega Elementary School, Togipa, and Alailepo. As a regulatory authority, ASEPA is required to investigate any potential contamination of regulated water systems. There was also a particular urgency to this situation since there had been verbal reports from the Public Health Nurse in Manu’a that residents had reported cases of gastrointestinal illness in late February.

On March 14th, ASEPA and American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) responded by sending a team (two representatives from ASEPA and two from ASPA) to Manu’a to investigate the water system. The team received assistance from two ASPA staff working in Manu’a and the DOH Public Health Nurse. The objectives set by the ASEPA and ASPA team were to collect water samples for the suspect sites for re-testing,

perform a sanitary survey of the water systems in order to identify potential sources of contamination, and to collect information from individuals who reported gastrointestinal illness.

On March 15th, ASEPA and ASPA staff performed sanitary surveys of all water systems on Ofu and Olosega and interviewed 26 individuals who had reported diarrhea.

On March 16th, the team collected water samples from all water systems and brought them to Tutuila for testing.

The following information was collected during the investigation:

First, the water samples that tested positive for total coliform and E Coli on March 10th, 2006 were four sites located in Olosega. However, the reported diarrhea cases were from Ofu and the water system in Ofu was not contaminated and did not have significant deficiencies. The two water systems, Ofu and Olosega, are not connected and are separate systems

More Historical Notes:

On April 17, 1970, at 12:07:44 p.m. Central Standard Time, the crew of Apollo 13 splashed down only 4 miles from the prime recovery ship USS Iwo Jima. Reentry required the unusual step of undocking the lunar module, which had been retained for the flight back to Earth, in addition to the separation of the damaged service module. The lunar module had remained attached to the spacecraft to preserve the maximum electrical power in the command module for entry. The reentry was similar to previous flights and landing occurred at 142:54:41 at 21°38'24"S latitude and 165° 21'42"W longitude. The landing was within sight of the recovery ship, Iwo Jima, and the crew were on board within 45 minutes. The astronauts for the Apollo 13 mission were, Mission Commander, Capt. James A. Lovell, Jr.; Command Module Pilot, John Leonard Swigert, Jr.; Lunar Module Pilot, Fred W. Haise, Jr. After their recovery they headed to American Samoa for a brief stop before they flew to Hawaii. The 1970 American Samoa Annual Report to the Secretary of the Interior, describes the events of that day and the next as follows. “The return of the Apollo 13 crew to American Samoa following their splashdown on April 17 made Pago Pago the dateline for the world’s top news story. About 25 correspondents for wire services, newspapers, radio and television networks rushed to the territory to cover the arrival. Flag Day was celebrated on the day of the splashdown, marking the 70th anniversary of the raising of the Stars and Stripes on Tutuila. Many of the correspondents had arrived early and filed stories on the colorful ceremony. One television network made a Flag Day documentary film which was shown to a large viewing audience. The astronauts arrived by helicopter on April 18, en route to Honolulu and a meeting with President Nixon. They were welcomed by thousands of Samoans [as well as then Governor John M. Haydon] and the newsmen sent out thousands of words of copy which was handled by the Office of Communications without one delay.” We just concluded celebrating our 70th celebration of Flag Day and it turned out to be the largest in the history of American Samoa. On top of that, the three astronauts popped in unexpectedly and this created an even greater celebration. It certainly was a thrill to meet them and a very exciting occasion for everybody. About three or four thousand people turned up almost instantly at the airport, along with dancing and singing groups, and about 30 newspaper men from all over the world who managed to find their way into here almost overnight. About 20 of them are still here. We had them up for cocktails yesterday afternoon.